

Church Consultation Overview



The purpose of a church consultation is to help a congregation more effectively join God in His mission for the Church. It is a direct approach to consulting that assumes God has a clear mission for every church that focuses on the great commission and great commandment. God is most honoured when the local church proactively builds Christ's Kingdom in their own community and beyond.

Phase 1 of Consultation Process: Congregational Self-Study

The first phase of the consultation process requires the church leadership to share the task of assembling a variety of information. This information is used to determine the life cycle of the church, the current state of the church, and the trends within the church and local community.

The information gathering process needs to be completed, with the information forwarded to the consultant, at least four weeks prior to the consultation weekend. The kinds of research that will be done include:

- * History and description of the congregation
- * Beliefs and practices
- * Congregational demographics for the life of the church
- * Digital video of regular church service
- * Church documents and samples of publications
- * Leader's self-study discussion
- * Community Study

Phase 2 of the Consultation Process: Congregational and Staff Survey

The second phase of the consultation process is first surveying the entire congregation. This needs to be completed 6–8 weeks before the consultation weekend. The leadership chooses a particular Sunday, (letting the congregation know ahead of time), to have the surveys filled out. The surveys come from, and the results are tabulated by, the 'Fellowship Pacific Ministry Centre' in British Columbia. The mode of the survey is online. On the agreed upon Sunday the congregation is given the website and the access code in order for them to complete the survey. Completed surveys (within the week) are sent to the 'Fellowship Pacific Ministry Centre' for tabulation. Results then go to the FEB Central consultation team.

Surveys (online, 6-10 questions) are also sent ahead of time to the Pastor and staff. It is advantageous to have input from these sources ahead of time.

Phase 3 of Consultation Process: Consultation Weekend

The third phase of the consultation process is a weekend that is set aside for the actual consultation and discussion. Usually this will include interviews with the pastor and some key leaders on Friday, followed by a larger focus group discussion taking place on Friday night. Saturday is spent with leaders (pastors, staff, and key influencers) in the congregation. It is primarily a training day, about what a biblically healthy church looks like.

Sunday is a key day in the weekend consultation. One person from the consultation team will preach in the Sunday service, clarifying the urgency of becoming risk takers for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Also, the team will meet with the pastor to review the report that will be given to the church. Finally the consultation report in PowerPoint form will be shared with the congregation. Typically, the report will state four to six strengths of the church, limitations in current ministry, and prescriptions for their future.

Phase 4 of the Consultation Process: Covenant and Coaching

In the final phase of the consultation process, the Fellowship will commit to helping the church find coaching and offer appropriate training events.